

GRAUSTARK

#16

"Spring 1901"

8 January 1964

RUSSIA, ITALY INVADE AUSTRIA

ENGLAND: A Liv-Edi; F Lon-North Sea; F Edi-Norwegian Sea.

FRANCE: A Par-Bur; A Mar-Spa; F Bre-Eng.

GERMANY: A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Bur; F Kie-Den.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Ser; F Tri-Alb.

ITALY: A Ven-Tyr; A Rom-Ven; F Nap-Ion.

RUSSIA: A War-Gal; A Mos-Ukr; F St.P-Bot; F Sev-Bla.

TURKEY: A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con; F Ank-Bla.

Underlined moves are not possible.

The following communiques have been received:

ROME: "Now all men by these presents that the Government of Italy and the Government of Turkey do hereby guarantee the neutrality of Serbia, Albania and Greece in case of an attack by a Third Power against them. Any breach of the neutrality of these three countries will be considered as an attack against the two Guarantor Powers."

LONDON: "Non-aggression pacts and trade agreements have been concluded with the governments of Russia, France, and Germany."

PARIS (Reuters): The Army of Marseilles advanced to Madrid in Spain to secure what seems to be fading French and growing German influence there. The Atlantic Fleet left Brest and sailed into the English Channel. Its present whereabouts are unreported. It would seem the French government is showing the flag.

ROME (Royal Proclamation): The government of the Kingdom of Italy wishes to announce its troop deployment for the forthcoming Spring. The Army which has been recruited solely from the citizens at Venice, wishing to secure the frontiers, marches triumphantly into Tyrolia. The Army of Rome, under the generalship of a commander reputed to be more brilliant than Caesar, rushes to defend the homeland, and to bring personal greetings to the brave and heroic citizens of Venice from His Majesty the King. The Fleet in Naples, taking full advantage of Freedom of the High Seas, sails leisurely out into the Ionian.

ST. PETERSBURG (Imperial Proclamation from General Staff HQ): My Dear Citizens: I issue this proclamation in order to inform you that as of this morning a state of war has existed between our nation and the realm of Imperial Austria-Hungary.

The Duma has duly considered the position of the entire country and has come forward as a man with a declaration of war. With grieving in our hearts and tears in our eyes, we must forthwith engage in a struggle for our lives with the

back-stabbers of Austria.

Even now it is reported that Austrian troops are filing down the Balkans, propping up the false house of Serbia and seeking to suppress the free peoples of Greece and Roumania.

Therefore, we are at present moving in to protect those nations wherever possible, and crossing into Galicia in order to stamp out this anti-Slavic conspiracy at its nest.

It is hoped that you, the peoples of Russia, shall gird yourself for the coming conflict. It is not known at present whether the revived Ottoman regime or Germany will wish their borders inflamed. It is sincerely hoped that Abdul Hamid and Chancellor Bismarck will seek peace on their Russian frontiers.

We want only peace, but as Franz Joseph has learned, we shall fight to preserve our friends and to honor our obligations at any cost.

Rationing will shortly be instituted in most essential goods. War Bonds will be on sale shortly. And the enlistment centers will now be open. It is hoped that the sturdy farmers and trained workers of our land will now produce for the Motherland as they have never done before.

I ask for tranquility at home and endurance in the line. And I shall forever remain faithful to our friends and our allies.

Trust in God and our Arms!

IMPERIAL PROCLAMATION

(This document has been submitted by Derek Nelson, who directed the forces of Italy to victory in the first game of postal Diplomacy ever played (1963A).)

12 July 1906

As the Great War in Europe draws to its inevitable climax the Royal Government of the Italian nation feels it must finally speak of matters that will affect the course of Europe for millenia to come, and the events of the past five long and terrible years which have brought this about.

When it became obvious in the winter of 1900 that the plague of war would soon descend upon Europe, His Majesty the King delegated authority in all but domestic and some diplomatic affairs to the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

We, recognizing the inherent military disadvantages that fall to Italy, also realized that only by gambling could we hope to achieve victory over our natural enemy, the Empire of Austria-Hungary. To liberate Tyrolia and Trieste and to pre-empt the obvious western march by the Austrians we issued a formal declaration of war to them, and sent our brave armies against them. Mutual need gave us a non-aggression pact with France in the diplomatic field. This left Germany as an unknown, but here again we had to gamble.

It is strange to think back and realize that assaults of such audacity were ordered in a gloom of hopelessness, for not one member of the General Staff believed their counterparts in Austria would be so foolish as to let them succeed. When the year of 1901 finally passed into history our joy was

unbounded, tempered only by a natural feeling that no one could perform the operations Austria had accomplished without some dark and sinister motive, that we could not divine, to guide him.

The entry of the German Army into the war brought complications that could only be resolved by a switch in strategy. From the Spring campaign on 1902 till well into 1905 our policy was simply to destroy the Austrian Armed Forces and to drive the Hun back across his border without getting involved in a war with France. Our military actions were of a cautious nature. Every element of risk that could be, was removed from the campaign, and though this made for slow progress it also made for sure progress.

By Christmas of 1904 when winter bogged down our armies both objectives mentioned above had been attained. Cautious play on our part prevented Italy from smashing into Germany and now the Hun had enough forces to hold his border indefinitely. But we had no desire to turn on France. Yet if we failed to, the seeming Entente that had developed between the French and the German in 1904 might threaten our absolute control of South-East Europe.

So, after great soul-searching and with heavy heart we informed France that we considered the non-aggression treaty cancelled (as was legally prescribed under the terms of it). Then, when we moved against France, the German also attacked, and in the fall of 1905 France was butchered.

The war draws to a conclusion, and with inevitable Italian victory in the cards we wish to, and shall, state our terms for the return of peace to Europe.

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy is, by Papal Bull and right of conquest, Holy Roman Emperor. Tyrolia and Trieste will become provinces of the homeland, and all other territory under Italian occupation shall owe allegiance to the Emperor rather than the King. Excepting foreign affairs, defence, and internal security they shall be completely autonomous. All inhabitants shall, if they wish it, become Italian citizens with the same rights as free Italians. All internal tariffs, religious, ethnic, lingualistic and economic privileges within the Italian Confederacy of the Holy Roman Empire shall be abolished. The Hapsburgs will be retired on pension to the isle of Corfu.

The other powers of Europe must also accept the following conditions. Paris and Marseilles will be returned to France, the latter however must have no military installations at any time. Although they must lose Iberia, Brest will be retained and Belgium added to the brave Republic. The erratic Lion called England will retain complete control of the Home Island together with its protectorate of Norway. The renegade and treacherous Hun, on the other hand, will lose Berlin and Munich, both of which will be incorporated into the Italian Confederacy. However, so as not to upset the Balance of Power in Europe, Holland, Kiel, Denmark, and Sweden will remain under the heavy tread of his boot.

These are our minimum demands. The rest of Europe may accept them voluntarily or we will enforce them ourselves, with resultant heavy loss of life. Once our demands are met our armies will secure the hand line and our fleets will make sure the Mid-Atlantic and Mediterranean are nought but Italian

lakes.

There are lessons in this war. First and foremost among them is the impossibility of fighting and winning a two-front war. This was Germany's mistake. We offered her a non-aggression pact, and for the duration of it her flank would have been secure. Italy NEVER breaks a treaty once it is signed.

Secondly, when it concerns military affairs, political boundaries mean absolutely nothing. Our abandonment of Trieste in Spring 1902 was a political disaster (by the time the Austrian propaganda machine got through -- this was their only effective arm by the way) but a military necessity. German penetration into Piedmont-Tuscany, we are sure they'll be surprised to learn, caused absolutely no worry in Italy though this too was a political disaster of the first magnitude. Of greater consequence, we felt, was the possibility of Austro-German forces linking up through Tyrolia-Trieste in 1903 and hence cutting our forces in half to be annihilated in detail. His movement into Piedmont and later Tuscany where he could be annihilated at our pleasure was a relief rather than a threat. This wastage of an army left the German eastern armies weak (they were anyway) at a time when strong German forces in support of the surviving Austrians could have played havoc with our spaghetti-like occupation of Austria-Hungary's Empire.

We repeat. NEVER fight a two-front war.

PAX ITALIA!

VICTOR EMMANUEL REX ET IMPERATOR!

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The end of an academic semester makes heavy demands on the time of the Gamesmaster and at least 3 of the players in 1964A. The deadline for Winter 1901 moved in 1964A is therefore extended to Saturday 25 January 1964.

In Ruritania #7, Dave McDaniel reports that a mention of Diplomacy appeared in Time, 24 November 1963, p. 44.

GRAUSTARK #16
8 January 1964
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U. S. A.

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